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An Examination of Society from the Standpoint of Evolution. By LOUIS WALLIS. Columbus, O.: The Argus Press. Pp. 325.

POPULAR education has produced a multitude of amateurs who have just enough rhetorical knack, commonplace information, and conceit of wisdom to afflict reviewers and the public with a flood of superfluous books. This evil is acute in the field of social science. It should not be surprising, therefore, that workers in this field are skeptical about the merits of a new publication, unless its author has an assured academic position or previous scientific standing. The assumption is that it is merely another weariness to the spirit of specialists, always overtaxed in keeping up with the work of their colleagues who have something to say.

Mr. Wallis has almost estopped me from expressing my judgment of his book by giving me excessive credit in connection with it. At the risk of seeming to offer a *quid pro quo*, I record my opinion, however, that the book cannot fairly be ignored by sociologists. It deserves to be read, and read respectfully. It is very far from being a mere rendering of common knowledge. It is virtually a thesis, which may be stated quite briefly, with support from a long historical argument. The thesis itself is less novel than the author thinks, and it does not go so far toward the end of the sociological problem as he supposes. At the same time it carries an element of original emphasis which is not altogether misplaced, and there are few philosophical monographs in our day of which more than this is true. Mr. Wallis shows both analytic and synthetic ability that entitle him to a thoughtful hearing. He has fairly earned recognition as a sociological thinker.

In a word, the argument of the book is this:

1. A considerable fact in all civilizations is social "cleavage" into two principal classes, upper and lower (p. 47).
2. A second principal fact is that "the integration of society rests upon concomitant integration of capital," both material and intangible (p. 51).
3. Social cleavage is one of the principal factors in the capitalization of social development (p. 51); *i. e.*:

Cleavage actively enlisted the egoism of the upper class in the tremendous work of social development. A large part of the appropriated labor of the masses was converted into the material and spiritual tools whereby humanity conquers its environment and struggles upward along the path of progress. . . . By promoting the growth of capital, the upper class uncon-

sciously served the lower classes, and freed the different sections of the humble folk to serve each other. Civilization, to all outward appearances, is based on exploitation; but in its deepest essence it is founded on the law of service. Cleavage is a paradoxical involution of the law of service (pp. 84, 85).

4. The social problem has always been how to prevent the abuses of cleavage from outweighing its benefits. The greater part of the book (chaps. v-viii) is virtually expansion of this proposition.

The teleology more or less evident in the discussion may be reduced to the formula: The inevitable reforms, or adjustments, which will distribute the benefits of progress more widely than at present, will consist very largely of better socialization of the different sorts of capital which cleavage has accumulated. The influence of Henry George crops out very plainly, but this ought not to prejudice the main thesis.

The historical material with which the argument is fortified is handled with a degree of intelligence entirely out of the common. I have not been able to test his accuracy in details, but the author's quest of the underlying meaning of events always shows keen historic sense. The book is consequently a successful contribution to social analysis. Mr. Wallis's interpretation, however, is mediate rather than conclusive. What he means by "cleavage" is merely one of the phenomena of social differentiation in general, and in no other sense a "factor" (*cf.* pp. 12, 51, etc.) than is the case with every other institutional development. It is rather an incident in the operation of forces which are themselves the principal concern. This *mode of their operation* seems to have impressed the writer unduly: *i. e.*, by regarding it more as a cause than as an effect he has obscured more ultimate causes. In his theory, therefore, "cleavage" takes the place of a *deus ex machina*. This by no means vitiates his argument; it merely qualifies the importance of the conclusions which the argument contains. A great cloud of scientific witnesses might testify that this was their experience too in proposing generalizations. Mr. Wallis has demonstrated his right to be heard, and it is to be hoped that he will pursue the studies so creditably begun.

A. W. S.

Essai d'une philosophie de la solidarité. Conférences et discussions présidées par MM. LÉON BOURGEOIS ET A. CROISSET. Paris: Alcan, 1902. Pp. xiv + 287.

THE addresses and discussions brought together into this volume were presented in a series of conferences held during the winter of